

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Emigh et al.(US 5,954,323). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Houseman (US 4,852,722). Claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muller (EP 0771675A1) in view of Emigh et al. Claim 10 was objected to, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 was objected to, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the amendments to claim 1, Applicant believes claim 10 is condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 10 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Applicant would like to clarify that a slip contact can be for example, a “low-friction electrical slip-ring assembly,” as described in paragraph [0008]; or an “electronic slip ring,” described in paragraph [0012]. Use of a slip ring is described in paragraph [0031]: “controller 60 is connected electronically to the solenoid control valves 52, 54 via slip ring 14.” In view of the above examples, Applicant believes that the term “slip contact” complies with the written description requirement.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 3 and 12 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Emigh et al.(US 5,954,323).

Amended independent claims 1 and 16 recite the limitation:

“a rotating arm rotating a full rotation.”

Amended independent claim 11 recites the limitation:

“a rotating arm moving in a reciprocating or rotational movement rotating a full rotation.”

Emigh does not show “a rotating arm rotating a full rotation” or “a rotating arm moving in a reciprocating or rotational movement rotating a full rotation.” In Emigh, the arm rotates less than “a full rotation,” (Fig. 4).

Claims 2 to 4, 7 to 9, 12, 13 depend on independent claims 1 and 11 and consequently incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 11 by reference. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 to 4, 7 to 9, 12, 13 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 11 which are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth in the discussion above.

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Houseman (US 4,852,722).

Amended independent claim 14 recites the limitation:

“reciprocating or rotating an arm to move a gripper to remove signatures from a saddle-back conveyor, the arm defining a full rotation range of motion.”

Houseman does not show a saddle-back conveyor (See Houseman, Fig. 6a).

Claim 15 depends on claim 14 and consequently incorporate the limitations of claim 14

by reference. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 14 which is believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth in the discussion above.

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muller (EP 0771675A1) in view of Emigh et al.

Claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 16

Amended independent claims 1 and 16 recite the limitations:

“a rotating arm rotating a full rotation“ and

“an electromechanical actuator connected to the first gripper for opening and closing the first gripper, the electromechanical actuator being mounted on the moving arm.

Amended independent claim 11 recites the limitation:

“a rotating arm moving in a reciprocating or rotational movement rotating a full rotation”
and

“an electromechanical actuator connected to the first gripper for opening and closing the first gripper, the electromechanical actuator being mounted on the moving arm.”

Amended independent claim 14 recites the limitation:

“electronically controlling the gripper during the range of motion to open and close the gripper to grip the signature.”

Muller fails at the very least to disclose the above listed elements. In Muller, the arms do not have “an electromechanical actuator connected to the first gripper for opening and closing the first gripper, the electromechanical actuator being mounted on the moving arm” or “electronically controlling the gripper during the range of motion to open and close the gripper to grip the signature” (See Muller Fig. 1).

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Muller with the Emigh cylinder, since the cylinder (28) in Emigh could not be mounted on an arm that rotates 360 degrees, as it has fixed components, such as cylinder lines 32 inhibiting such motion.

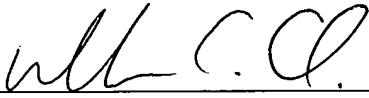
Claims 2 to 9, 12, 13, and 15 depend on independent claims 1, 11, and 14 and consequently incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 11 and 14 by reference. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 to 9, 12, 13, and 15 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claims 1, 11 and 14 which are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth in the discussion above.

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 
William C. Gehris
Reg. No. 38,156

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940